

CATHERINE'S LITERARY WORK

whereby I am made able to love. Thou, eternal Trinity, art the Maker, and I the work of Thy hands ; I have known, by Thy recreation of me in the blood of Thy Son, that Thou art enamoured of the beauty of what Thou hast made.

" O abyss, O eternal Godhead, O deep sea ! And what more

couldst Thou give me, than give Thyself ? Thou art fire

ever burnest and art not consumed; Thou art fire that

consumest all self-love in the soul by Thy heat ; Thou art fire

that destroyest all coldness; Thou dost illumine, and by

light Thou hast made me know Thy truth. Thou art that

above all light, with which light Thou givest supernatural

to the eye of the understanding, in such abundance and

that Thou dost clarify the light of faith; in which faith I see

my soul has life, and in this light she receives Thee, the

Light. In the light of faith, I acquire wisdom, in the wisdom of the

Thy Son. In the light of faith, I am strong, constant, and

persevering. In the light of faith, I hope; it will not let

faint on the road. This light teaches me the way, and,

this light, I should walk in darkness ; and, therefore, I

besought Thee, eternal Father, to illumine me with the light of most

faith. Verily, this light is a sea, for it nourishes the soul

in Thee, sea of peace, eternal Trinity; the water of this sea is never

stormy, and, therefore, the soul has no fear, because she knows

the truth ; it is ever clear and reveals things hidden ; and thus, where

the most abundant light of Thy faith abounds, it, as it were,

makes the soul certain about what she believes. It is a

mirror, as Thou,
 eternal Trinity, dost make me know; for, gazing into
 this mirror,
 holding it with the hand of love, it shows me myself
 in Thee,
 who am Thy creature, and Thee in me, by the union
 which Thou
 didst make of the Godhead with our humanity. In
 this light
 it reveals Thee to me, and I know Thee, supreme
 and infinite
 Good, good above all good, blissful good,
 incomprehensible good,
 inestimable good; Beauty above all beauty ; Wisdom
 above all
 wisdom. Yea, Thou art very Wisdom ; Thou, the food
 of
 Angels, hast given Thyself to men with fire of love ;
 Thou,
 the raiment that coverest up my nakedness, dost
 feed the